

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /161 W

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P R 240930Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5513

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

RUESHRAMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1344

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5178

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, UR

SUBJECT: FALSE REPORT OF IMMINENT REOPENING OF
SAUDI/SOVIET DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

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STATE PASS CAIRO
BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD
KUWAIT PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT
LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

1. OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT HE WAS SURE WE MUST BE INTRIGUED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF REPORTS FROM BEIRUT THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS ON THE POINT OF RESUMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

2. HE SAID HE WANTED TO REASSURE US THAT THIS WOULD NEVER HAPPEN-AT LEAST NOT AS LONG AS "THIS MAN IS KING". HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE CONCEIVABLE IF THE UNITED STATES OR ITS ALLIES INVADED SAUDI ARABIA BUT HE DOUBTED IT WOULD HAPPEN EVEN THEN.

3. SAQQAF SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARABS (HE IDENTIFIED ONLY SYRIA) TO TAKE THIS STEP, BUT HE SAID THE BEIRUT REPORTS WERE BASED ENTIRELY ON THE FACT THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD SENT A LETTER OF CONGRATUALTIONS TO THE SOVIET UNION ON THE OCCASION OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION. THE USSR WAS THE FIRST NATION TO RECOGNIZE THE KINGDOM AND FOR A SHORT TIME IN THE STALIN PERIOD HAD A MINISTER ACCREDITED TO RIYADH. THE LEBANESE ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME GREETINGS HAD BEEN SENT (ACTUALLY IT WAS A STANDARD TELEGRAM SENT EVERY YEAR). THE BEIRUT PRESS HAD

TIED THIS TO THE OBVIOUS STRAINS ON US-SAUDI RELATIONS AND JUMPED FROM ONE FALSE CONCLUSION TO ANOTHER. NOT ONLY ARE THEY REPORTING IMMINENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT NOW ARE TALKING ABOUT A LARGE SAUDI LOAN TO THE USSR. HE SAID THIS WAS EVEN MORE LAUGHABLE.
AKINS

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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30 JUN 2005

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